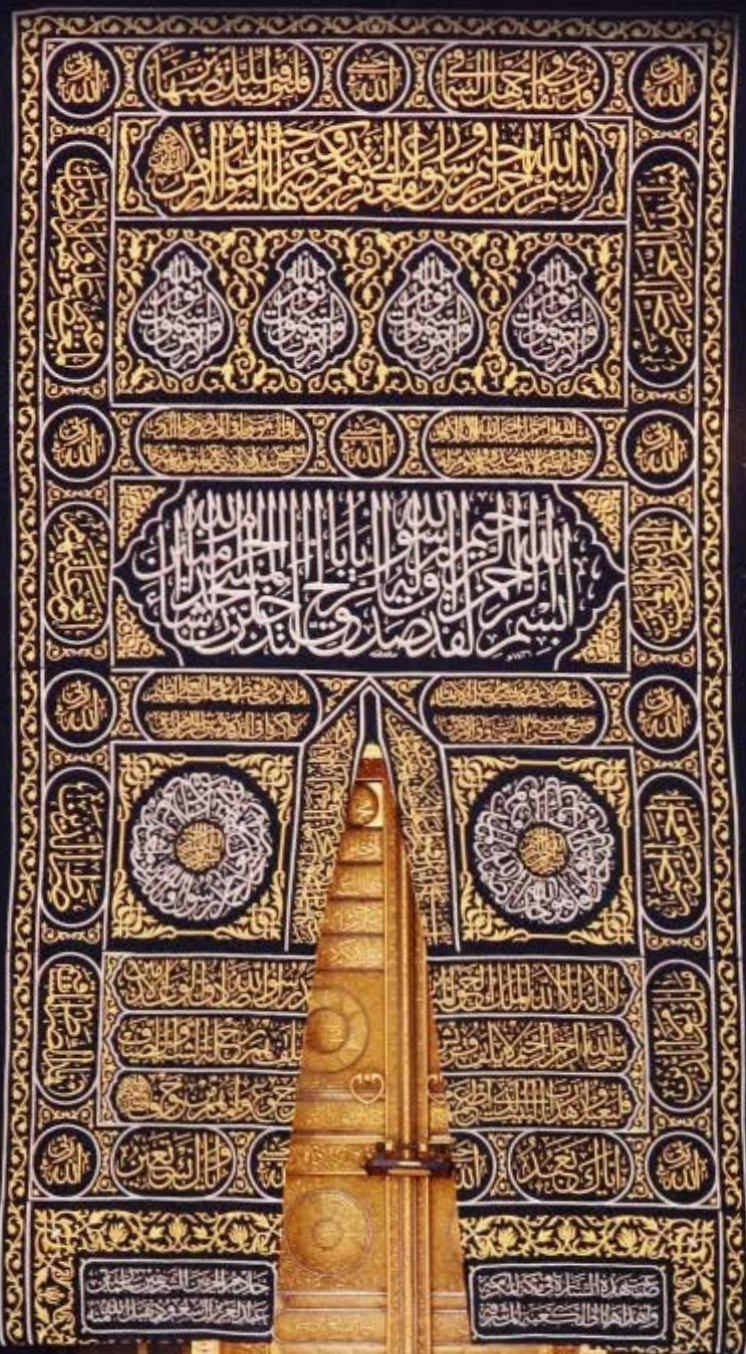




ISSUE 4 KZN

Dhul Hijjah 1439 | August 2018

ISLAMIC FOCUS



HAJJ

JOURNEYS FROM HISTORY

HANAFI & SHAFI DIFFERENCES IN *Qurbani*

ML LOOT

FROM AFGHANISTAN TO
INDIA TO SOUTH AFRICA



FROM THE EDITOR

AHLAN WASAHLAN

As the season of Hajj dawns, the hearts of the Muslims turn ever more towards Makkah Mukarramah and Madinah Munawwarah in yearning. The life changing impact of Hajj is undeniable. For those who cannot make it this year to be on the plains of Arafat, we have an article detailing things that can be done to get the reward of Hajj. We also take a stroll down memory lane and get a glimpse of what a Hajj journey from South Africa was like a century ago.

Madinah Munawwarah is the city of light and beauty and nothing reflects this more than the noble room in which Nabi sallallahu alaihi wa sallam is resting. Read the accounts through various periods of history of the unique fragrance of this chamber.

And we round off the Harams with a visit to Masjidul Aqsa and the road to its liberation.

This issue's biography looks at the remarkable life of Moulana Mohamed Loot rahimahullah and his indelible legacy on the South African Muslim community.

Our regular Fiqh feature details the differences between the Hanafi and Shafi Mathabs with regards to Qurbani. Alhamdulillah this feature has been exceptionally well received by our readers and is a testament to the meticulous research of the Shafi and Hanafi Muftis who are consulted.

I'm always on the lookout for stories that inspire and lives that are an inspiration. Have you got something to say that will resonate with others? Drop me a line, and we could publish your article: info@islamicfocus.co.za.

Muhammad Badsha
(Moulana)



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CREDITS

Editor
MI Muhammad Badsha

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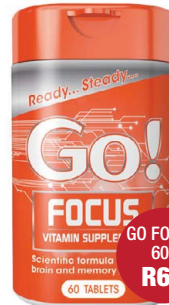
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A PILOT PROJECT IN CONJUNCTION WITH SENIOR ULAMA TO PRODUCE RELIGIOUS LEADERS FROM WITHIN THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA.

SABALALISA IQINISO

DAWAH ACADEMY

Sabalalisa Iqiniso Dawah Academy (S.I.D.A.) also known as Ar Rauhah drafted a pilot project in conjunction with senior Ulama to produce religious leaders from within the indigenous people of South Africa. The project found a home at the foothills of the Drakensberg Mountains in Estcourt, KwaZulu Natal. It is situated close to the town's masjid on land purchased for this purpose.

The project is multifaceted and addresses the various needs and challenges common to Muslims in an under privileged minority community. 3 years after its inception the pilot project grew into a sought after, practical design that produced the desired results. The project comprises of a 3 year Muallim and Daa'iey course for males, a 3 year Muallimah and Daa'iyah course for females, Hifz Classes for learners of all ages, part time adult education, the establishment of Makaatib in rural areas, Dawah Projects, a fully-fledged publication department and a Social and Welfare department.

S.I.D.A. is an independent N.P.O. organisation that thrives on developing Muslim Leaders that serve. Whilst being an independent body, S.I.D.A. also embarks on several joint ventures with other N.P.O.'s and N.G.O.'s in serving the community and has developed a track record over the past 8 years that has received several recommendations and accolades from our senior Ulema, N.P.O.'s, N.G.O.'s entrepreneurs, professionals and the intended recipients alike.

AR RAUDHAH BOYS CENTRE

Ar Raudhah boys centre is the heart of the organisation. The course has evolved to cater for the present and near future needs a community could require from its Imaam. Annually we visit the Ulama of our country, report is given of the past year and consultation is made for the coming year. In this manner we get to exchange current issues and challenges, and receive guidelines on how to address current issues on ground level so that the positive impact can have a national and global ripple effect. Quraan, Ahaadith, Fiqh, Surahs, Duas, Aqaaid, Aqhlaaq, teaching

methodology and public speaking form the theoretical syllabus. However, deen is not based on book knowledge alone. Our learners spend 40 days annually in the path of Allah, 4 months [India, Pakistan, Bangladesh] on completion of their course, I'tikaaf by the learners and teachers alike, in the company of the various Ulama of our country, 3 days jamaat, ghash, taleem in the Masjid, attendance of zikr and Islahi programmes hosted by local, national and foreign Ulema e Kiraam is an integrated part of the development process. Personally assisting in burial processes affords the learners a hands on learning environment.

RAUDHATUS SAWLIHAAT

We found that some learners who had graduated and returned to their respective communities were faced with the challenge of finding suitable spouses. The decision was taken to add on a female wing to our project. Raudatus Sawlihaat has its humble beginnings in a two bedroom home with 8 students. Since its inception it has moved premises thrice until last year. We now have premises in the residential area of Estcourt.

Renovations and additions to the property brought the madrasah to a position of catering for 30 learners. Raudatus Sawlihaat curriculum was designed in a manner to equip a new Muslimah with the knowledge, skills, abilities and tools to become a devoted muslimah, a suitable spouse, an educator to new Muslim learners and a role model and guide to the females of the community she will be serving. The curriculum is a replica of the boys' syllabus with a few tweaks. They are taught how to handle young children, adolescent teenage girls and how to deal with other challenges faced by females in sparsely developed areas. They are also educated in cooking, sewing and baking. During their final year these protégé Muallimahs are given in house training on teaching learners of various ages, intellectual abilities and personalities.

MUSJID ABU BAKR ﷺ

The project began with the purchase of the property in 2010. The building phase is now complete. Masjid Abu Bakr radhiallahu anhu is based in an under privileged settlement approximately 5 kilometers from Estcourt. 5 daily salaah, afternoon maktab, school lunch distribution, Tabligh gush and outreach programs take place from here.

MUSJID UMAR ﷺ

This the latest project in our growth plan. Sabalalisa Iqiniso acquired a home in Mufisini and our first maktab began. There are approximately 100 learners in the Maktab. The Masjid building project is currently in the process of being completed.

PUBLICATIONS DEPARTMENT

The Publication department has grown into a fully fledged office. We

have an in house press department solely catering for the growing need of Islamic Zulu literature. Annually our department prints thousands of books for the sustainability, empowering and educating of a newly developing Muslim community. The translation and compilation of the first Zulu Fadaail e Amaal was undertaken by this department.

AR RAUDHAH ENGLISH AND ZULU PUBLICATIONS

For Purchases, please contact Muallim Abdur Rahmaan Phakathi 074 605 0792 / 083 262 8024

RAUDATUL QURAAN

Our madressa began on a small plot in the valleys of Weenen. Ar Raudah Academy was approached by members of the Weenen community to incorporate them into our growth plan. The madrasah began with 10 students and one Aalim. As the madrasah grew a donor gave us larger premises in Washbank, the home town of Moulana Qasim Sema rahimahullah.

VISITORS

Our centers have been visited by many Senior national and international Ulema including:
Mufti Rada Ul Haq
MI Shabeer A Saloojee
MI Fadlur Rahmaan
MI Abdul Hamid
Mufti Ebrahim Salajee Estcourt
MI A.K. Kajee
MI Tootla
MI Haroon Abbasomar
MI Mahmood Madani
Mufti Afzal Elias
Mufti A.S. Desai
MI Lateef ur Rahmaan
Mufti Farook Meerati
MI Goolaam Qadir Kashmiri.

CONTACT US

Sabalalisa Iqiniso Dawah Academy and Ar-Raudhah Publications

101 Connor Street,
P.O. Box 479, Estcourt 3310
Tel: +27 83 262 8024
Tel: +27 73 691 0883
E-mail: bhayla@hotmail.com

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Hajee Iqbal Desai
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Account number: 1349121029

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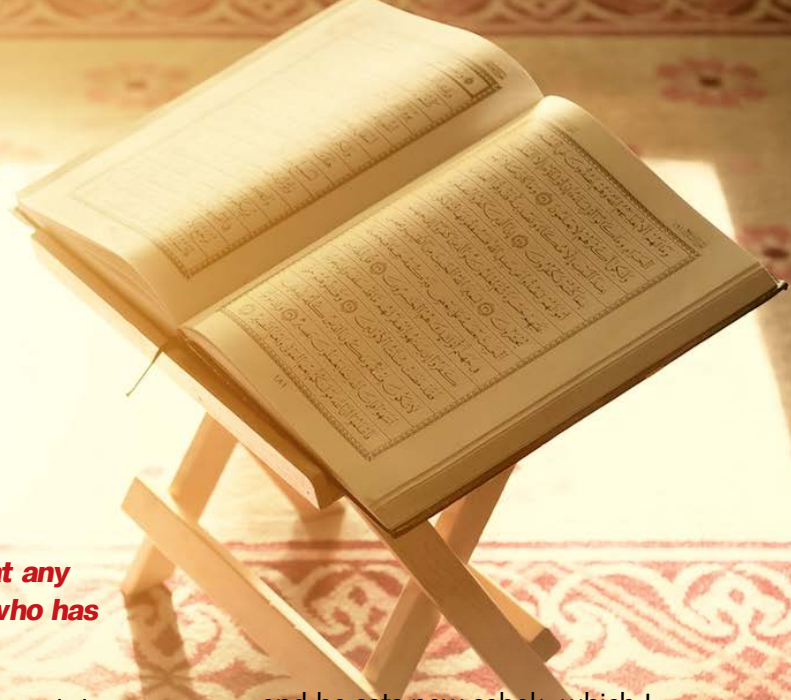
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ZAKAAT

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HIFZ

AT ADVANCED AGE



Hifz (memorisation) of the Holy Quran is possible at any age. Here is a piece written by a 61 year old man who has embarked on this noble journey.

WHO AM I?

I am a 61 year old married man with three grown up children, and who works full time.

SO WHAT?

I decided in January 2016, at age 60 to attempt Hifz-ul-Qur'an. Alhamdulillah, I have now progressed to my 13th Juz.

WHY?

I just cannot get over the fact that when you are reciting any portion of the Quran from memory, the words that are flowing from your mouth is the actual speech of Allah, and you are conveying His message to those listening to you, and He is honouring you as He

did Rasullulah ﷺ, and that He is addressing you personally.

That is so special, and no one from any other religion can get this special favour! That is just awesome!

SO WHO OR WHAT INSPIRED ME?

When I listen to the young Huffaaz reciting, I wish I could be their age to become a Haafiz. Well I certainly can't become young again, but I could be a haafiz!

HOW DO I DO IT?

I wake up around 4.30am, learn my sabak (new lesson), recite this and dhur (revision) to my teacher,

and he sets new sabak, which I learn for about 1 and half hours after he leaves, and do dhur in the evenings.

But I cannot memorise without understanding the meaning of each word and ayat, so I read the English translation to help me memorise.

I'M SO OLD, SO WHAT DO I HOPE TO ACHIEVE?

It doesn't matter how young or old you are, I feel this is the biggest deal of your life because:

- If you make Allah your friend, nothing or no one else matters. And how do you make friends? If you love someone you do whatever it takes to please them. Would Allah not be pleased that you keep His Words in your heart and teach others?
- If you fill your heart with His Words, there is no room for any other evil words or thoughts, because you never want break

the friendship!

- You are always remembering Allah. If you're not reciting, then you know Allah is aware that His words are inside your heart.
- If you teach someone any little of the Quran that you learnt, you also get the reward of the one whom you taught.
- When you leave this world, you want the Quran to accompany you in the grave, and stand

guard and protect you from the punishment of the grave. On Judgement Day, you want the Quran that you learnt to earn you the Shade of Allah's Throne.

- Imagine you could ask Allah to save many of your loved one from Hell-Fire through your Hifz.
- Imagine that you could be in the Best place in Paradise

FINALLY

There are so many more benefits that I cannot even cover, but feel there is no better deal that anyone could ever get in this world that

would benefit you here and in the Hereafter.

I hope this inspires you to make a little sacrifice for eternal reward

and please always remember in your duas even if you don't know who I am!



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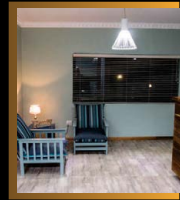
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HAJJ WITHOUT A VISA!

Deeds that equal
the reward of Hajj

Since Hajj is among the most virtuous deeds in Islam, and not everyone can afford it (especially on a continuous basis) Allah ﷻ has attached the reward of optional Hajj to certain other deeds for the benefit of all.

Now that the Hujjaj have begun to depart, those who have been left behind can take consolation from the following narrations which promise of various other deeds yielding Hajj rewards:

Note:

1. The promises of "gaining the same reward as Hajj" are restricted to the reward only. It does not mean that one upon whom Hajj is obligatory can merely suffice on these deeds. (Sharh-Nawawi ala Muslim, 1256)
2. The purpose is not to discourage one from the actual Hajj.

Adapted from: <http://www.al-miftah.com/deeds-that-equal-the-reward-of-hajj/>

Wudu at home before proceeding for Salaah with congregation.

1

"One who purifies himself (i.e, makes wudu) and leaves his home to attend the fard salaah in congregation receives the reward of a Haji in the state of Ihram..." (Abu Dawud, 559)

Salatul Ishraq "Whoever offers his Fajr salaah in congregation, and then remains seated making the dhikr (remembrance) of Allah until (approximately 15 mins after) sunrise after which he offers two rakaats of Salaah (Ishraq), will receive the reward of one complete Hajj and one complete Umrah." (Tirmidhi, 586)

2

Going to the Masjid to learn or teach knowledge

3

"Whoever goes to the Masjid for the purpose of learning or teaching Knowledge, receives the reward of a Haji whose Hajj was perfect. (Tabarani, Hadith, 7473)

Umrah in Ramadaan

4

The Prophet ﷺ said: "Umrah in Ramadaan equals the reward of Hajj with me". (Muslim, 1256)

To recite "Subhanallah" 100 times in the morning and evening. "He who recites Subhanallah 100 times in the morning and another 100 times in the evening is like one who performed Hajj 100 times!" (Tirmidhi, 3471)

5

Serving one's Parents.

The Prophet ﷺ told a man regarding his mother: "Show Allah how you serve her. If you do so you will be like a: Haji, a Mutamir (one doing Umrah) and a Mujaahid (one striving in Allah's way)." (Abu Yala, 2760)

Hafiz Ibn Rajab Al-Hambali rahimahullah has quoted other deeds that yield the reward of Hajj from various pious people (i.e., not necessarily from the Hadith). These have been extracted from his Lataaiful Ma'arif, pgs.357-359:

6

Attending Juma Salaah.

Saeed ibnul Musayyab rahimahullah said: "Attending the Juma is better according to me than a nafl (voluntary) Hajj."

7

Attending Eid Salaah.

Some of the Sahabah ؓ have said: "Attending the Eidul Fitr Salaah equals the reward of Umrah, and the Eidul Adha Salaah equals that of Hajj."

8

Esha Salaah in Congregation.

Uqbah ibn Abdil Ghaafir rahimahullah said: "Offering Esha Salaah in congregation equals the reward of Hajj, and the Fajr in congregation equals Umrah."

9

Fulfilling the need of a Muslim.

Hasan Al-Basri rahimahullah said: "Your proceeding to fulfil the need a fellow Muslim is better for you than one Hajj after another!"

10

Staying away from haram (forbidden) acts.

Some of the pious predecessors said: "To abstain from an iota of wrong is better than five hundred (Nafl) Hajj."

Fudhail ibn Iyadh rahimahullah said: "There is no Hajj or Jihad that is more important than protecting one's tongue," i.e. against sin.

11

Spending on a student of Islamic knowledge.

Once a father came to Imam Muhammad ibn Sahnun (rahimahullah) and said: "I will earn by myself and I will not distract my son from his studies. Imam Ibn Sahnun replied: "Do you know that your reward for doing so will be greater than that of (nafl) Hajj, and Jihad!" (Ma'alim Irshadiyyah of Shaykh Muhammad Awwamah, pg.35)

12

TAKBEER OF TASHREEQ

Eidul Adha will most likely be on Wednesday, 22 August 2018 in South Africa

The Takbeer of Tashreeq will be recited from Fajr on Tuesday, 21 August until Asr on Saturday, 25 August (dependant on sighting of the moon)

TAKBEER OF TASHREEQ (HANAFI):

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ
اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَلِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ

Transliteration: ALLAHU AKBAR
ALLAHU AKBAR LAA ILAHA
ILLALLAHU WALLAHU AKBAR
ALLAHU AKBAR WA LILLAHIL
HAMD

Translation: Allah is the Greatest.
Allah is the Greatest. There is no
God but Allah, and Allah is the
Greatest. Allah is the Greatest,
and all praises are due unto Allah

Wajib to recite after every Fardh Salaah

TAKBEER OF TASHREEQ (SHAFI):

الله أكبر الله أكبر الله أكبر، لا إله إلا الله
الله أكبر الله أكبر، والله الحمد

Transliteration: ALLAHU AKBAR
ALLAHU AKBAR ALLAHU
AKBAR LAA ILAHA ILLALLAHU
ALLAHU AKBAR ALLAHU
AKBAR WA LILLAHIL HAMD

Translation: Allah is the Greatest.
Allah is the Greatest. Allah is the
Greatest. There is no God but
Allah. Allah is the Greatest. Allah
is the Greatest, and all praises are
due unto Allah

Sunnah to recite
after every Fardh,
Sunnah, Nafl and
Qadha Salaah



Hifz COMPETITION

WINNERS
ANNOUNCED
IN DECEMBER
ISLAMIC FOCUS
MAGAZINE

INTRODUCTION

Islamic Focus is holding a Hifz competition for school going boys and girls in northern KwaZulu Natal. Madressas are encouraged to submit the amount of new work (sabak) that students had given during the course of 2018. A stringent process of verification will be followed to ensure that submissions are correct.

There are two categories: for boys and girls.

The reason for the choice of the two categories: boys and girls school going Hifz is to promote what is quite probably the most taxing form of Hifz study. Students need to be on the top of their game in two very different study environments

which equates to lots of dedication and effort.

Girls Hifz is a growing category of Hifz study in South Africa. It is still relatively in its formative stages and Islamic Focus wishes to provide encouragement for those in this field and to spark interest in others.

RULES

1. The competition is open to all students who attend school and are doing Hifz. 2. Entrants cannot be older than 17 years old at 15 November 2018. 3. Competition open to all South African citizens studying in the northern KwaZulu Natal Province. 4. Original entry form needs to be filled in by the teacher and attested to by a witness. 5. There needs to be proof in the form of record books or dates in the Quran. 6. The period for qualification is from 1 January 2018 to 15 November 2018. 7. Entry is subject to verification by judges appointed by Islamic Focus. 8. Judge's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. 9. The competition is subject to withdrawal at the discretion of the organisers. 10. The sabak needs to be new work and not relearning of previously done work. 11. The winners give permission for their names to be used in promotional material by Islamic Focus. 12. Prizes are decided by the sponsors and cannot be exchanged for anything else.

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MOULANA Sayed ^{عليه السلام} Mohamed Loot

AFGHANISTAN TO INDIA TO SOUTH AFRICA

Moulana was born around 1899 in Nurpur Village, Cambellpur District (now Attock) in Northern India (today it forms part of Pakistan). He spent his youth in the Kandahar area of Afghanistan before moving back to British India. Here he developed an interest in the Persian language and studied Moulana Jalaluddeen Rumi rahimahullah's works extensively. He spent his childhood in several Madressas in India furthering his studies. These include Deoband and Khakushti.

In Deoband, where he spent a year studying, he was commended for his knowledge of Fiqh. He qualified as a Hakeem (herbal doctor) and an Aalim at the Punjab University in Lahore. Moulana came to South Africa in 1937. He ran the Mosque and Madressa in Richmond, KwaZulu Natal single handed for six years until 1942. He was the Imam as well as caretaker cleaning the premises. His desire to instil Islamic knowledge in the community. He displayed this by running the Madressa after Fajr. He developed his own curriculum teaching Urdu, Arabic and basic Fiqh. Moulana Loot was an academic. He researched Sufism and wrote his most famous work, an Encyclopaedia in three volumes on the subject, which was published in India in the 1930's. He authored several other books but these are unfortunately lost or out of print.

He has also many children's elementary Islamic books in Urdu and Arabic to his credit.

Moulana went to India in 1942 to get married and returned in 1944 as as Imam in Centre Mosque in Pietermaritzburg's CBD. He served here for around nine years returning to India in 1952. In 1953 he returned to South Africa at the request of the Lockhat family. He served as Imam at the Ahmedia Mosque in Mayville, Durban until 1980. Here he developed an integrated system of religious and secular system at the Ahmedia School, the forerunner of Muslim schools in South Africa. In Mayville he went from house to house giving dawah and encouraging the community to send their children to Madressa.

In the early eighties he was requested by the Lockhat Trust to assist in Parlock in diffusing tension between the Sunni and Tabligh groups in the community. His greatest lament was the divisions in the Muslim community and he strove to unite all Muslims irrespective of their race and beliefs. Moulana resided in Parlock for a few years before retiring to Estcourt where he passed away in 1999. He is buried in Estcourt cemetery.

He was a founder member of the Jamiatul Ulama Natal in 1955. He was one of the early Ulama who motivated youngsters to study

advanced Islamic sciences abroad (especially the famous Deoband Darul Uloom) for the purposes of establishing Darul Ulooms in South Africa.

He had a fantastic memory quoting chapter and verse from Quran, Hadth and works like Imam Gazzali rahimahullah's Ihya Ulumud Deen when answering questions on Islam. Moulana knew more than 10 languages including Arabic, Urdu, Persian, and other languages from the Indian subcontinent.

He had a reputation of always standing for the full twenty rakaats of Taraweeh in Ramadan in spite of suffering with severe arthritis of his knees. He was a Sayyid from the family of Nabi sallallahu alaihi wa sallam via Hazrat Hassan radhiallahu anhu. Moulana had proof for this lineage. Moulana spent over 5 decades serving the communities in Richmond 1937-1942, Pietermaritzburg 1944 – 1952, Durban from 1954.

Moulana had a close friendship with Hazrat Haji Bhai Padia rahimahullah from the sixties. Haji Bhai Padia rahimahullah would always send him something when returning from Jamaat overseas. Moulana Omarjee rahimahullah was also a close friend of many years and enjoyed many happy moments in debate with Moulana.



INSIGHT INTO FIQH

Differences between the Shafi and Hanafi Mathab in Qurbani

Port Elizabeth happens to have a healthy fusion between followers of the Shafi and Hanafi Fiqh. Many a home will have a mix of members following the two schools of thought within Islamic jurisprudence.

In fact, most if not all the Madressas in the city teach both the Fiqhs to accommodate for the students of the two Mathabs who attend. Many a Masjid shares Imams and Muazzins of both the Mathabs. This results in the Bismillah and Aameen being said

loud and soft, the raising of the hands and many other aspects.

In view of this, we bring you a simplified version of the main differences between the Shafi and Hanafi Mathabs with regards to Qurbani. This is only intended as a guide and detailed answers should be sought from the respective Ulama.

Some differences in the rules of Qurbani between Shafi and Hanafi:

1 Status

Shafi: Qurbani is Sunnah Muakkada.
Hanafi: Qurbani is Wajib.

2 Validity

Shafi: It is Sunnah Muakkada alal Kifaya. If one person in the household does a Qurbani, others don't need to do so.

Hanafi: Each individual qualifying needs to do a separate Qurbani.

3 Qadha

Shafi: No qadha of Qurbani.
Hanafi: Give the value of sheep for missed Qurbani.

4 Qurbani period

Shafi: From 10th Zul Hijja when time enough for an Eid Salaah and 2 short Rakaats and 2 short Khutbas passes. Lasts 4 days until sunset on 13th Zul Hijja.

Hanafi: From sunrise on 10th Zul Hijja in rural areas with no Eid Salaah, and after the first Eid Salaah in cities until sunset on the 12th Zul Hijja. Lasts 3 days.

5 Age of animal

Shafi: Sheep - over one year.
Goats - over two years.
Hanafi: Sheep - A fat, big 6-month+ sheep allowed if it physically appears to be a year old. Goats - over one year.

6 Tasmiya

Shafi: Sunnah. If left out, not because of regarding it as trivial, Halaal.
Hanafi: Wajib to recite at time of slaughter.

7 Meat

Shafi: Some portion is Wajib to give in charity. Meat can only be given to Muslims.
Hanafi: Not Wajib to give any portion in charity. Meat can be given to non Muslims.

8 Takbeer of Tashreeq

Shafi: Sunnah after every Salaah irrespective of status in the days of Tashreeq.
Hanafi: Wajib after every Fardh Salaah in the days of Tashreeq.

9 Number of vessels to be cut

Shafi: Esophagus and windpipe to be cut. Slaughter will be valid when these two are cut, even if the two jugular veins are not cut.
Hanafi: Cutting any three of the four vessels of the throat: carotid artery, trachea, esophagus, and jugular veins.

NOTE

These rules are collected from the mainstream views of the Muftis of the two Mathabs. They are listed to give an appreciation of the differences and to remove any misconceptions.

They can also serve as a handy guide for teachers who need to teach students of a Mathab different from their own, or for Imams whose congregations are different from their own.

OPERATION QURBAANI

Dhul Hijjah

2018

MI Timol insha-allah will be undertaking the yearly trip for Qurbani. Along with the execution of the obligation of qurbaani, the needs of the poor served by doing the qurbaani is villages who live below the poverty line. They are unable to afford the luxury of meat throughout the year. Meat is only available to the inhabitants of these areas, orphans & students on the occasion of Eid-ul-adha. Early ordering and payment will make out tasks easy. There are many villages in which we make qurbaani.

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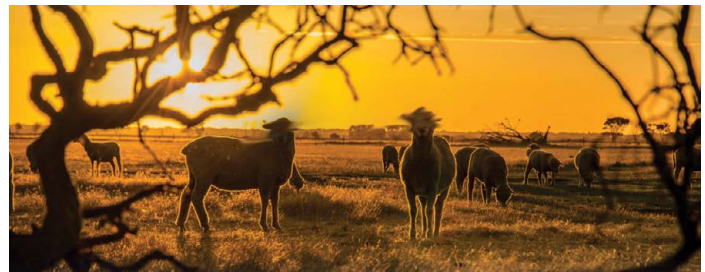
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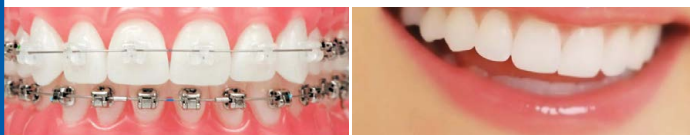
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INSPIRATION

Motivational stories to give us the inspiration we might need

THE GOLDEN BOX

A man once punished his 3-year-old daughter for wasting a roll of gold wrapping paper. Money was tight and he became infuriated when the child tried to decorate a box as a present.

Nevertheless, the little girl brought the gift to her father the next morning and said, 'This is for you, Daddy.' He was embarrassed by his earlier overreaction, but his anger flared again when he found the box was empty. He yelled at her, 'Don't you know that when you give someone a present, there's supposed to be something inside it?'

The little girl looked up at him with

tears in her eyes and said, 'Oh, Daddy, it is not empty. I blew kisses into the box. All for you, Daddy.' The father was crushed. He put his arms around his little girl, and he begged for her forgiveness. The man kept that gold box by his bed for years and whenever he was discouraged, he would take out an imaginary kiss and remember the love of the child who had put it there.

In a very real sense, each of us as has been given a gold container filled with unconditional love from our children, friends, family and God. There is no more precious possession anyone



could hold.

We should also never respond to any situation without first knowing all the details. We could end up hurting someone who was actually trying to help us.



"When you fall, in any way, don't see the place where you fell. Instead see the place from where you slipped. Life is about correcting mistakes."

THE DEPOSIT BOOK

M married H. M's mother gave her a newly opened bank savings book with a R1000 deposit.

Mother: "Keep this savings book as a record of your marriage. When something happy happens, put some money in. Write down what it's about. I've done the first one for you. Do the others with your husband. When you look back after years, you will know how much happiness you've had."

M shared this with H. They thought it was a great idea. This was what they did after a while: 1 Mar: R300, salary raise for M; 20 Mar: R200, vacation to Mauritius; 15 Apr: R2000, M got pregnant; 1 Jun: R1000, H promoted, and so on. However, after years, they started

arguing over trivial things. They didn't talk much.

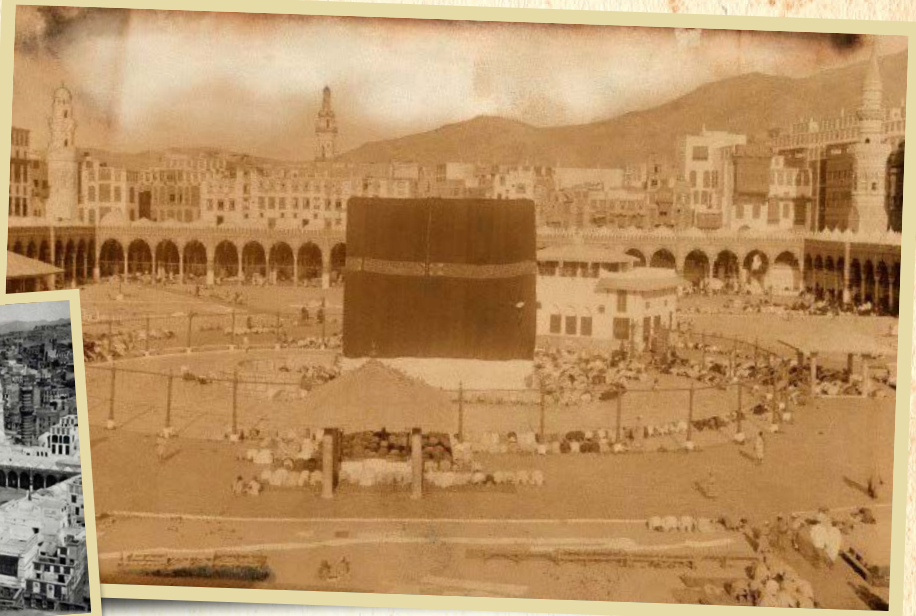
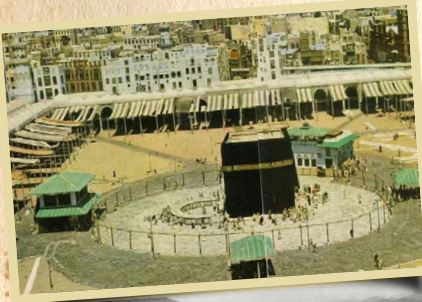
One day M said to her Mother: "We can't stand it anymore. We agree to divorce. I can't imagine how I married this guy!" Mother: "That's no big deal. Do whatever you want. But before that, do one thing. Remember the savings book I gave you? Take out all money and spend it. You shouldn't keep a record of such a poor marriage." M thought it was true.

So she went to the bank to withdraw the amount. While waiting, she took a look at the records. She looked, and looked, and looked. Then the memory of all the previous happiness came back. Her eyes filled with tears. She left and went home. She handed the book to her husband, and asked



him to spend the money before getting divorced.

The next day, H gave the book back to M. She found a new deposit of R5000. And a line next to the record: "This is the day I notice how much I've loved you all these years. How much happiness you've brought me." They hugged and cried, putting the savings book back in the safe. "When you fall, in any way, don't see the place where you fell. Instead see the place from where you slipped. Life is about correcting mistakes."



AN OLD ACCOUNT OF Hajj

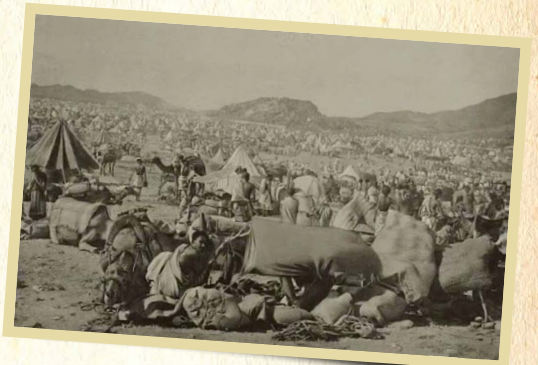
Hedley Churchward, the British man who converted to Islam, was the first to record an account of his Hajj in English. Here is how the Hajj of one hundred years ago from South Africa differed from today's air-conditioned airplane flight:



In 1910, Churchward left South Africa. He had to travel via Bombay, where he spent weeks in negotiations until he found an elderly pilgrim ship, the SS Islamic, and this vessel chugged slowly across the Indian Ocean, visiting the Arabian Gulf before wending its way up the Red Sea. Halting at small ports to deliver sacks of mail, there was little to do except watch the dolphins, eat curry, and pray on deck with the Indian pilgrims.

In Jeddah, he contacted the local representative (wakil) of Sharifa Zain Wali, a rich businesswoman of Makkah who ran a large organisation of pilgrim guides. She had family connections in Cape Town. The Wakil took Churchward to his house, and explained how to don his Ihram clothing before letting him settle down for the night. He telegraphed most of his money through to Makkah.

The road beyond Jeddah was little more than a camel track, but the



Wakil led the small party on with donkeys. En route Ottoman police chased off a band of robbers who attacked pilgrims. In the oven-like heat they made several stops at roadside coffee-houses.

After two days Churchward entered Makkah. The next day he was awoken before dawn by the strange lilting sound of Ottoman bugles, and after prayers and a breakfast of melons he entered the Kabah.

The first stage of a five-month journey had finally come to an end.

THE ROAD TO JERUSALEM BATTLE OF HITTIN 1187

Lessons for today

Palestine is occupied. The surrounding Muslim countries are helpless. Al Aqsa is under threat. Sound familiar?

Well, this was the situation 1,000 years ago when the Christian Crusaders ruled over Palestine. The Christian crusades in the 1100's saw Muslims lose control of Palestine and surrounding areas. Attempts to regain these lands were repulsed for about a century.

No Muslim could make inroads against them.

Then the man of the moment, Salahuddeen Ayyubi stood up for the liberation of the holy land and he succeeded where others had failed. The turning point was the Battle of Hittin, Palestine in 1187, where Salahuddeen's forces crushed the might of Christendom's armies, once again making the Muslims the main military power in Palestine, liberating Jerusalem and several other Crusader-held cities. The Battle of Hittin opened the road to the recapture of Jerusalem, Musjidul Aqsa and the rest of Palestine by the Muslims.

Victory at Hittin cleared the route between Egypt and Palestine for Salahuddeen's troops and established his fleet in the Mediterranean. This fleet blocked the movement of European ships in the area.

Jerusalem suffered as a result of Hittin. In addition to the loss of most of its male population, it suffered a shortage of food because the battle had occurred at harvest time and crops were lost. Refugees so crowded the streets, that the walled city could hardly accommodate them. Faced with these problems, Jerusalem could not resist an attack very long.

Salahuddeen

positioned his troops at Hittin the night of 2 July. As 3 July dawned, battle commenced. The Christians retreated, to no avail, to Mount Hattin. Victory for Islam occurred on Saturday 4 July.

A day to be remembered by Muslims as it led to the reconquest of Al Aqsa.

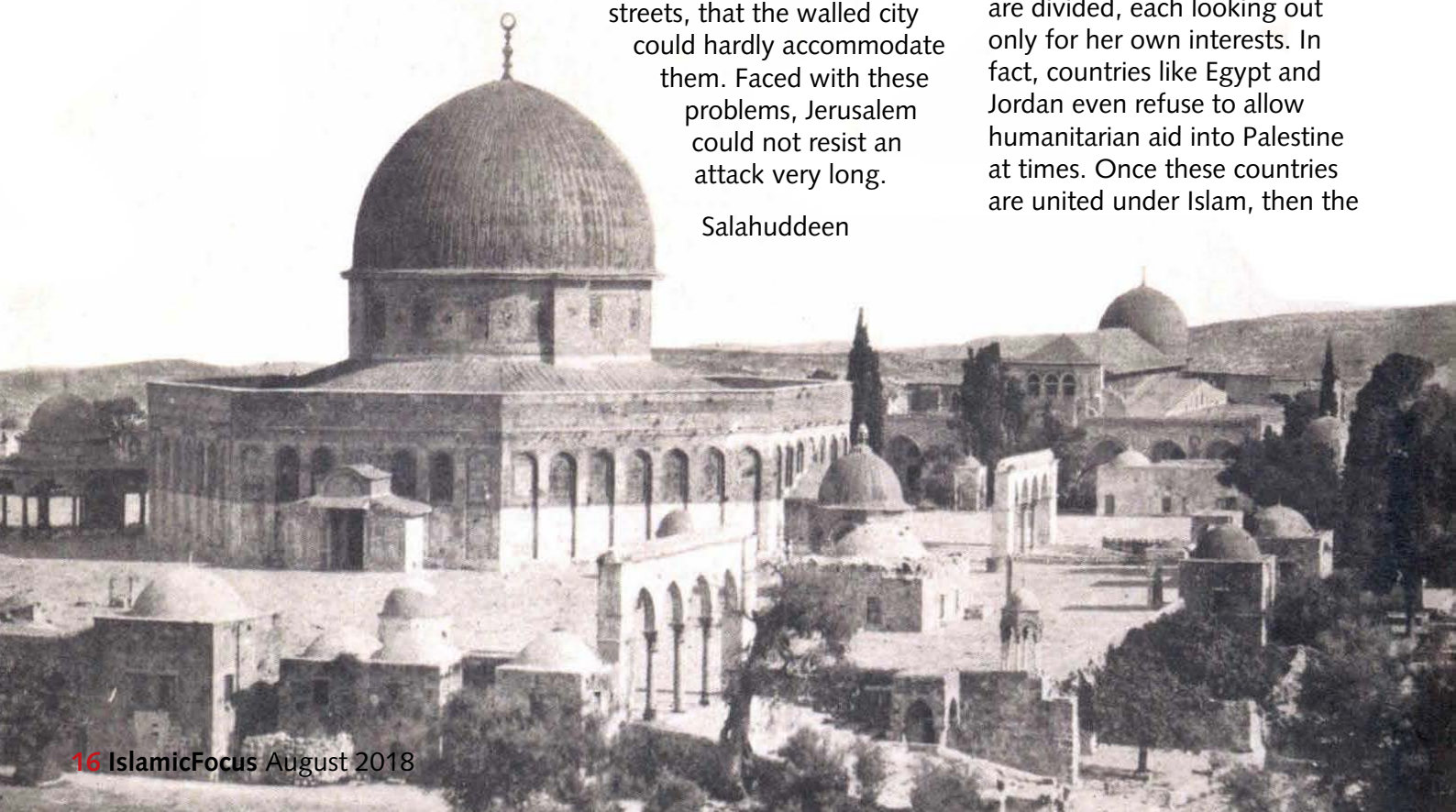
LESSONS FROM HITTIN

Here are some of the reasons why Salahuddeen won through:

1. UNITY

The Muslim states surrounding the Crusader Kingdom of Jerusalem had been united during the 1170s and 1180s by Salahuddeen. He had been appointed vizier of Egypt in 1169 and soon came to rule the country as sultan. In 1174, he united Damascus, Aleppo by 1176 and Mosul by 1183. For the first time, the Kingdom of Jerusalem was encircled by Muslim territory united under one ruler.

A similar situation exists today, where the Muslim states surrounding Palestine are divided, each looking out only for her own interests. In fact, countries like Egypt and Jordan even refuse to allow humanitarian aid into Palestine at times. Once these countries are united under Islam, then the



“...do not dispute and [thus] lose courage and [then] your strength would depart...” ”
(Quran 8:46)

days of the Jewish occupation will be numbered.

It is worthwhile revisiting the lessons of the Taifas of Muslim Spain. Spanish history from the fall of the Córdoba Caliphate in 1031 CE is essential reading for any Muslim who wishes to see Muslim strength restored.

In the 11th century, when the First Crusades were carving out territories in Palestine, the Christians of Spain set out to take over Muslim territories. The Caliphate of Córdoba, at this time among the richest and most powerful states in Europe, underwent inter-Muslim civil war. As a result, it broke into taifas, small rival emirates fighting among themselves.

The disintegration of the Caliphate left the rival Muslim kingdoms much weaker than

their Christian counterparts and had to submit to them. Muslim Taifas often hired Christian mercenaries to fight neighbouring Muslim realms. Taifas eventually numbered over 60, where once there was a united Muslim kingdom.

End result? The glorious Muslim reign over Spain came to a crashing end after Muslims destroyed the united Muslim state, divided into pieces and fought each other.

“...do not dispute and [thus] lose courage and [then] your strength would depart...” (Quran 8:46)

2. DIVISION

Once Muslims united, Allah Ta'ala caused divisions within the ranks of the Crusaders with King Guy of Lusignan on the one side and Raynold of Catillon and the Knights Templar on the other.

This will also happen to the united forces of Christianity and Judaism today.

3. TACTICS

Again, with unity and a desire to follow Islam, Allah Ta'ala made the pieces fall into place for the liberation of Jerusalem. He granted the Muslims a brilliant tactical leader in Salahuddeen who lured the Christians into false military manoeuvres at Hittin. He also used smoke to blind the Crusaders and captured the main water supply at the battlefield. Furthermore, Salahuddeen refused to be bribed by the Crusader garrison at Tiberias.

The Crusaders lost 17,000 men on that day and the road to the liberation of Jerusalem and Palestine lay open to Salahuddeen.

VIRTUES OF MUSJIDUL AQSA

In the Quraan there are many verses implying that the land of Palestine, the city of Jerusalem, the entire environs are set apart as holy and blessed, as they received special divine blessings. The land around Masjid Al-Aqsa is referred to 70 times as the blessed land in the Quraan. The Traditions of the Prophet sallallahu alaihi wa sallam also refer to the sacredness of Masjid Al-Aqsa. Among them are:

1 It was the first Qiblah of Muslims: See tafsir of Quraan 2:142.

2 It was the second Masjid on Earth: (Bukhari)

3 The Prophet sallallahu alaihi wa sallam said regarding Bait al-Maqdis (Jerusalem): 'It is the land of gathering and resurrection. Go there and offer prayer. Your prayer will be considered as a thousand prayers.' (Abu Dawood)

4 '... a prayer in Bait al-Maqdis is like five hundred prayers (elsewhere). (Baihaqi)

5 'If anyone puts on ihram for Hajj or Umrah from Masjid al-Aqsa and then proceeds to the sacred Masjid (Makkah), his former and latter sins will be forgiven, or he will

be guaranteed Paradise.' (Abu Dawood)

6 Donating to Masjid Al-Aqsa: The Prophet sallallahu alaihi wa sallam said regarding the legal injunction about visiting Bait al-Maqdis: 'Go and pray there. If you cannot visit it and pray there, then send some oil to be used in the lamps.' (Bukhari)

7 Ibn Abbas radihallahu anhuma said, 'There is not a single inch in al-Quds (Jerusalem) where a Prophet has not prayed or an angel not stood.' (Tirmidhi)

Beauty of Salaah

Do you feel your Salaah (prayer) is not having the effect it is supposed to have on your life? It seems we've lost the ability to connect in Salaah that makes all the difference in its effect on us. The people of the past found serenity in Salaah:

On one occasion a Sahaabi was in Salaah when he was shot with an arrow in the chest. He pulled it out and continued in prayer. A second arrow hit him and he did the same. A third arrow was shot but now he could no longer stand and fell bleeding. Another Sahaabi rushed to his aid saying, 'Why didn't you alert me from the first arrow?' The Sahaabi replied, 'I was in the middle of a (beautiful) Surah and didn't wish to interrupt my recitation of it.'

Ask yourself: Why do I pray? We need to start praying out of love, out of longing to be with the one we love. Pray for the comfort that comes from being with the one you love.

THERE ARE 3 REASONS WHICH MAKE YOU LOVE SOMEONE:

- 1 Either because that someone is beautiful.
- 2 Or because that someone deals kindly with you.
- 3 Or because that someone has done many favours for you.

Allah is all of these and more.

Doesn't He deserve to be the most worthy of our love over everything? Musa alaihis salaam fainted when he only saw the mountain which saw Allah's beauty. Imagine if it was a direct sight!

Allah is so Kind that when we sin against Him, we sin using the very gifts and He has given us, yet He continues to protect us, even while we're in the act! You will not find anyone more kind.

As for Allah's favours upon us, close your eyes a while to appreciate just the gift of sight alone.

Remember: The sweetness of this life lies in remembering Allah, the sweetness of the next life lies in seeing Him! The next time you go for prayer, go because you love Him, because you miss Him and long to be with Him.

APPROACHING SALAAH

Salaah (prayer) is an effective means of energizing a Muslim if it is read in the correct manner. Here are some hints on how to achieve peace from Salaah:

COMPREHEND THE WORDS AND ACTIONS OF SALAAH

When you are aware of what you are saying and doing then you remain focused. Since Allah ordained Salaah for us then this is achievable. Everything in this

world worships Allah around the clock, surely we can do 10 minutes. Just seek Allah's help and you will reach a point where you'd wish Salaah never ended!

ENSURE PRESENCE OF HEART

Your heart must be in it if you want to feel the effects. This is not difficult to achieve. All you need is 10 minutes to focus on the love you hold for Allah.

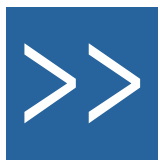
COME TO SALAH WITH A FEELING OF HOPE

The more you know about Allah, the more your heart can feel this hope: hope for His Mercy, for His forgiveness, His acceptance, His love, His closeness. 'Hope' is different from 'wish'. Hope is coupled with action, where you work for what you hope for.

FEEL AWE FOR ALLAH

A sense of fear and awe paired with a deep reverence that one feels when standing in front of Allah. An example of a small element of awe is what is felt towards a parent or one in authority. Recall the duaas the Prophet sallallahu alaihi wa sallam taught us which arouses in us this awe: 'There is no salvation from You except through You.'

Adapted from: Sheikh Mishari Al-Kharraz's Lecture Series, "How to Taste the True Beauty of Salah."



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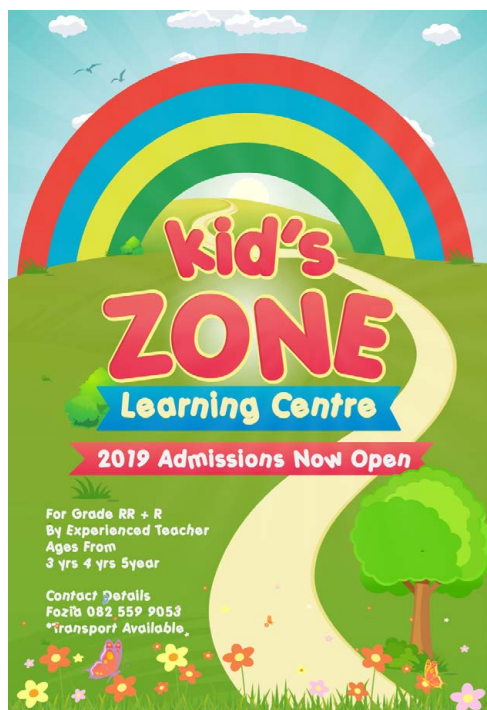
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- One is not allowed to slaughter a blind, lame or one eyed animal. If the animal has one leg lame to the extent that it cannot use the leg to walk, it is not suitable for qurbani.
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- Animals whose teeth have been completely removed such that they cannot graze are not suitable for qurbani.

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Al-Fidaa Foundation feeding program at the Port Elizabeth Sexual Offences Court for minors waiting to testify.

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